



February 15, 2019

Jeffrey L. Kirk, Ph.D.  
Associate Provost and Associate  
Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas  
1001 Leadership Place  
Killeen, TX 76549

Dear Dr. Kirk:

Thank you for your letter of July 5, 2018, transmitting a prospectus for the Master of Science in Homeland Security degree program to be offered, effective August 15, 2019.

The program, which is consistent with the mission of the University, will be offered on the main campus in Killeen primarily through face-to-face instruction with optional online courses. The target audience will be students wishing to advance their careers in criminal justice, emergency management, and cybersecurity. Much broader opportunities exist for homeland security professionals with a master's degree than for those with a bachelor's degree only. The University is near one of the largest military installations in the country and the area is home to 46,226 veterans. Because a military background is a good stepping stone to a career in Homeland Security, need exists for the program. In addition, the program will provide advanced career opportunities for persons in criminal justice fields such as detectives and criminal investigators. Data was provided concerning need and growth in employment in the field. Evidence of appropriate internal planning and approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was provided.

The curriculum for the program, course descriptions, and program learning outcomes and assessment measures for each outcome were provided. The institutional effectiveness process for the University was described. In addition to assessment of outcomes, the M.S. in Homeland Security program will conduct an external academic program review every seven years. A qualified faculty member from an institution outside the state will use a comprehensive self-study conducted by program faculty to perform an independent program evaluation. Qualifications of current faculty members scheduled to teach in the program appear appropriate.

Learning resources available to support the program include 33,513 print and electronic volumes related to the social sciences including criminal justice with over 1,000 volumes related to terrorism, national security, and civil defense. Access is also available to Digital National Security Archive, Criminal Justice Abstracts, SocIndex, Criminal Justice and Public Safety in Video, JSTOR, Wiley, Science Digest, ProQuest Central, Academic Search Complete, and SpringerLINK. Approximately 3,000 journals relating to law, criminal justice, and other topics related to Homeland Security are available as well. Reference services are provided online through a library chat and an extensive suite of research guides using LibGuides. The library chat is staffed by an OCLC Question Point cooperative consortium when the physical library is not open. Resources are available 24/7. To ensure availability to all students regardless of location, the library offers an item delivery service for distance students, allowing them to receive library materials through the mail when needed.



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Student support services, which are designed and administered under the leadership of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, include academic advising, tutoring, academic workshops and presentations, study abroad scholarships, career services, counseling services, disability services, testing services, financial assistance, technology support services, and veterans' affairs services. The Division of Technology-Enhanced Learning plans and coordinates distributed learning, provides support for instructional equipment in the classroom, creates professional development opportunities, and facilitates technology integration into on-campus and distance courses. The Help Desk Central provides assistance with technology to students, faculty, and staff on a 24/7 basis.

Physical facilities to support the program appear adequate including two multipurpose buildings with 25 classrooms equipped with instructor computers, internet access, an ELMO, overhead projectors, and document projectors. A third 64,000 square foot building will house additional academic and student spaces. Financial resources to support the program appear adequate as well.

**The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Master of Science in Homeland Security degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.**

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

At its meeting in June 2018, the Board of Trustees approved modification of the "*Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement*," for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/ABC:efk

Enclosure